



USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4)

FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96683

AFS4/31/MM:tg
5750
Ser 184
17 March 1981

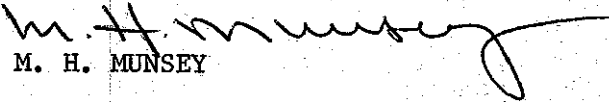
From: Commanding Officer, USS White Plains (AFS 4)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D. C. 20374

Subj: Command History 1980

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) USS White Plains (AFS 4) Command History, 1980 (3 copies)

1. Enclosure (1) is provided as required by reference (a).


M. H. MUNSEY

USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4)
Ships' History: 1980

On January 1, 1980, USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4) was participating in the first of two Indian Ocean deployments during the year. After receiving her sailing orders on Thanksgiving Day 1979, White Plains departed Yokosuka, Japan for the Indian Ocean in response to the Iranian seizure of the United States Embassy in Tehran and the abduction of the 52 American hostages.

During both Indian Ocean deployments, White Plains replenished the various ships of Task Force 70 and provided logistics support to the different battle groups.

In the first 1980 Indian Ocean deployment, White Plains arrived at the Indian Ocean-Arabian Sea area in early December 1979 and remained on station there until February 1980. During this time, White Plains received her major re-supply through Diego Garcia. White Plains was the only Fast Combat Store Ship on station during that period and she conducted 23 CONREPS and 36 VERTREPS.

On February 23, 1980, White Plains arrived at Subic Bay Naval Base, Republic of the Philippines for upkeep and re-supply. During this maintenance and loading out period, White Plains hosted a visit by Vice Admiral C.A.H. Trost, Commander United States Seventh Fleet. White Plains departed Subic Bay on February 29 for her second Indian Ocean deployment of 1980. On March 3, enroute, White Plains stopped at Singapore to load fresh produce, departing Singapore on March 5 to resume her transit to the Indian Ocean.

White Plains arrived at MODLOC in the Arabian Sea by the middle of March. During this second 1980 Indian Ocean deployment, White Plains operated from Diego Garcia and also obtained stores from established airheads and ports in Oman. White Plains remained on station in the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea until April 26 when she was relieved by the USS MARS (AFS-3). During the second Indian Ocean deployment, White Plains conducted 37 CONREPS and 47 VERTREPS. The total support effort by White Plains for the two Indian Ocean deployments resulted in a total of 143 major replenishments conducted, involving close to 20 different ships and transporting more than 18,000 tons of aircraft engines, food, stores and fleet freight. Among the ships re-supplied by White Plains during that time were ships of Task Group 70.1, USS MIDWAY, USS PARSONS, USS FANNING, USS BAINBRIDGE, USS KNOX, USNS PASSUMPSIC; ships of Task

Group 70.2, USS NIMITZ, USS CALIFORNIA, USS TEXAS, USS FOSTER, USNS Mispillion; ships of Task Group 70.3, USS CORAL SEA, USS SCHOFIELD, USS JOHN PAUL JONES, and USNS NAVASOTA.

After a brief stop in Subic Bay enroute to Yokosuka, White Plains returned to Yokosuka on May 12 to commence her regular overhaul of 1980, the ships' first major overhaul since 1975. On May 27, White Plains was dry-docked.

During the 1980 overhaul period, White Plains underwent extensive repairs and alterations. These included the installation of a new Fuel Stream Delivery Rig, giving White Plains a refuelling capability of 2000 gallons per minute, six new winch booths at the ships' winch control stations, upgrading of the air-conditioning systems throughout the ship and modernization of the ships' Enlisted Dining Facility.

The 1980 overhaul period was also a time of visits to White Plains from top-ranking military and civilian personnel. In June, White Plains was visited by Mr. John Doyle, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Logistics; followed by a visit on July 3 by Vice Admiral Baggett, Commander Naval Surface Group Western Pacific. Then, in September, White Plains was visited by Rear Admiral James Lyons, Commander Task Force 73.

On August 12, with the overhaul 50% complete, White Plains emerged from drydock and moved pierside to Berth 12 at Yokosuka Naval Base. She

was to remain there until sea-trials in November, but a threatening typhoon forced the ship to switch berths in October to her regular berth in Dry-dock 6.

White Plains successfully completed MTT I and II training in September for her Engineering Plant Light-Off Examination in October. The LOE went according to schedule and on October 13, White Plains successfully completed Light-Off.

Sea trials began for White Plains on November 6 and 7. Sea trials for White Plains were conducted off the coast of Honshu. Civilian workers and technicians from the Ship Repair Facility (SRF), Yokosuka, were embarked for that probative period. During sea trials, machinery in the ships' Engineering Plant was tested as were the ships' Electronic Systems. By the middle of November, all crewmembers were once again living onboard and on November 30, 1980, regular overhaul was completed after a short Ready-for-Sea (RFS) period.

In early December, White Plains conducted initial at sea training, following completion of overhaul, and had the opportunity to visit Sasebo, Japan. On December 12, White Plains arrived in Sasebo for a five day visit before returning to Yokosuka on December 20, where she spent the holidays with families and friends as a member of the Overseas Family Residency Program.

Nineteen-eighty saw many awards bestowed upon White Plains. In March, White Plains received the Humanitarian Service Medal for her participation in the 1979 refugee-rescue operations in the South China Sea. In September, White Plains won her second consecutive Battle "E" while five of her departments won departmental awards. These departments were, Damage Control, Operations, Deck, Supply and the White Plains Retention Team. White Plains also received the Navy Expeditionary Medal and the Sea Service Ribbon during the year.

AFSL